GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3570
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
CANCER CURE AT AIIMS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `At AIIMS for cancer cure, boy gets HIV from infected blood` published in the Indian Express (Delhi edition) dated February 14, 2001; and

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An eight year old male child was admitted in Paediatrics Unit-IIIof the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on 18th November, 1998.He had been suffering from fever for two months alongwith swellings in the neck, anaemia and superior vena caval obstruction. He was diagnosed to have Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)with central nervous system involvement. In June 2000 the patient was investigated for unexplained hepatomegaly and thrombocytopenia and was found to have HIV infection.A Committee constituted to undertake an indepth inquiry into the matter concluded that it is most unlikely that HIV infection was acquired at AIIMS.The Committee is of the opinion that the Blood Bankat the AIIMS undertook prescribed precautions for screening the blood and blood products used for the child patient. The AIIMS has been observing the guidelines of Drugs Controller strictly and maintaining highest standards in blood transfusion services. As per the hospital records, the child had received two blood transfusions before coming to the AIIMS.The development of HIV infection in the child is likely to be related to blood transfusions and injections that he received before coming to the AIIMS.